

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 2472
98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

6202H.03C

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal sections 208.952 and 208.985, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to the joint committee on public assistance.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 208.952 and 208.985, RSMo, are repealed and one new section
2 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 208.952, to read as follows:

208.952. 1. There is hereby established [the] **a permanent** "Joint Committee on [MO
2 HealthNet] **Public Assistance**". The committee shall have [as its purpose the study of] the
3 **following purposes:**

4 **(1) Studying, monitoring, and reviewing the efficacy of the public assistance**
5 **programs within the state;**

6 **(2) Determining the level and adequacy of resources needed [to continue and improve**
7 **the MO HealthNet program over time] for the public assistance programs within the state;**
8 **and**

9 **(3) Developing recommendations to the general assembly on the public assistance**
10 **programs within the state and promoting independence from safety-net programs among**
11 **recipients as may be appropriate.**
12

13 **The committee shall receive and obtain information from the departments of social**
14 **services, mental health, health and senior services, and elementary and secondary**
15 **education, and any other department as applicable, regarding the public assistance**
16 **programs within the state including, but not limited to, MO HealthNet, supplemental**
17 **nutrition assistance program (SNAP), and temporary assistance for needy families (TANF).**
18 **Such information shall include projected enrollment growth, budgetary matters, trends in**

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

19 **childhood poverty and hunger, and any other information deemed to be relevant to the**
20 **committee's purpose.**

21 **2. The directors of the departments of social services, mental health, and health and**
22 **senior services shall each submit an annual written report to the committee providing data**
23 **and statistical information regarding the caseloads of the department's employees involved**
24 **in the administration of public assistance programs.**

25 **3. The committee shall consist of [ten] twelve members:**

26 (1) The chair and the ranking minority member of the house committee on the budget;

27 (2) The chair and the ranking minority member of the senate committee on
28 appropriations [committee];

29 (3) The chair and the ranking minority member of the house committee on appropriations
30 [for health, mental health, and social services] **designated to consider public assistance**
31 **legislation and matters;**

32 (4) The chair and the ranking minority member of the **standing** senate committee [on
33 health and mental health] **designated to consider public assistance legislation and matters;**

34 (5) **The chair and the ranking minority member of the standing house committee**
35 **designated to consider public assistance legislation and matters;**

36 (6) A representative chosen by the speaker of the house of representatives; and

37 [(6)] (7) A senator chosen by the president pro [tem] **tempore** of the senate.

38

39 No more than [three] **four** members from each house shall be of the same political party.

40 [2.] **4. A chair of the committee shall be selected by the members of the committee.**

41 [3.] **5. The committee shall meet [as necessary] at least twice a year. A portion of the**
42 **meeting shall be set aside for the purpose of receiving public testimony. The committee**
43 **shall seek recommendations from social, economic, and public assistance experts on ways**
44 **to improve the effectiveness of public assistance programs, to improve program efficiency**
45 **and reduce costs, and to promote self-sufficiency among public assistance recipients as may**
46 **be appropriate.**

47 [4. Nothing in this section shall be construed as authorizing the committee to hire
48 employees or enter into any employment contracts.

49 5. The committee shall receive and study the five-year rolling MO HealthNet budget
50 forecast issued annually by the legislative budget office.]

51 **6. The committee is authorized to hire staff and enter into employment contracts**
52 **including, but not limited to, an executive director to conduct special reviews or**
53 **investigations of the public assistance programs within the state in order to assist the**
54 **committee with its duties. Staff appointments shall be approved by the president pro**

55 **tempore of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives. The compensation**
56 **of committee staff and the expenses of the committee shall be paid from the joint**
57 **contingent fund or jointly from the senate and house contingent funds until an**
58 **appropriation is made therefor.**

59 7. The committee shall **annually conduct a rolling five-year forecast of the public**
60 **assistance programs within the state and** make recommendations in a report to the general
61 assembly by January first each year, beginning in [2008] **2018**, on anticipated growth [in the MO
62 HealthNet program] **of the public assistance programs within the state**, needed improvements,
63 anticipated needed appropriations, and suggested strategies on ways to structure the state budget
64 in order to satisfy the future needs of [the program] **such programs.**

2 [208.985. 1. Pursuant to section 33.803, by January 1, 2008, and each
3 January first thereafter, the legislative budget office shall annually conduct a
4 rolling five-year MO HealthNet forecast. The forecast shall be issued to the
5 general assembly, the governor, the joint committee on MO HealthNet, and the
6 oversight committee established in section 208.955. The forecast shall include,
7 but not be limited to, the following, with additional items as determined by the
8 legislative budget office:

- 8 (1) The projected budget of the entire MO HealthNet program;
9 (2) The projected budgets of selected programs within MO HealthNet;
10 (3) Projected MO HealthNet enrollment growth, categorized by
11 population and geographic area;
12 (4) Projected required reimbursement rates for MO HealthNet providers;
13 and
14 (5) Projected financial need going forward.

15 2. In preparing the forecast required in subsection 1 of this section, where
16 the MO HealthNet program overlaps more than one department or agency, the
17 legislative budget office may provide for review and investigation of the program
18 or service level on an interagency or interdepartmental basis in an effort to review
19 all aspects of the program.]

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